PANS Eaglet

The official newsletter of the Polish-American Numismatic Society

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Meet the Medalist: Jurek Jakowicz

By: Steven Bieda

Behind the coins and medals we collect are some very talented and interesting people. This article is going to examine one such person, medalist Jurek Jakowicz. Jakowicz was born in Poland and raised in the city of Lodz. He was educated in art at the Government College of Art and the University of Lodz. He immigrated to the United States in 1985 and lived in South Dakota for 40 years, during which time he worked at Medallic Art Co. until the company was sold. He subsequently re-located to Ocala, Florida where he maintains his private studio today.

The artist has a diverse body of work. It is very likely that you may actually have a work done by Jakowicz in your pocket change: the sculptor did the sculpting on twenty-four of the Fifty States Quarter series as struck by the United States Mint. According to the sculptor, Medallic Art Co. was under contract with the U.S. Mint for assistance in the preparation of coin dies. He also did some work on the obverse of the Sacagawea Dollar, designed by the late Glenna Goodacre (1939-2020).

I first became acquainted with Jurek Jakowicz as a collector of Official Presidential Inaugural medals. Jakowicz was a finalist in the design of several Official Presidential Inaugural medals, and part of my collection that I've assembled over the years includes some of the "also rans." Official Presidential Inaugural medals have been part of a mostly unbroken tradition dating since 1901. These medals are distinguished from other medals honoring the Presidential Inauguration in that they are authorized by the Presidential Inaugural Committee. While Jurek Jakowicz has not designed an official Presidential Inaugural medal, his works, in the form of patterns struck in bronze, have been considered for this august honor.

Perhaps most famously, Jurek Jakowicz designed a reverse design that was briefly considered for the second inaugural of Bill Clinton and Al Gore for their 1997 medal. The 1996 Democratic campaign theme had been "Bridge to the Future," and one of the proposed reverse designs for the 1997 official presidential inaugural medal incorporated the "Bridge to the Future" design. It was stuck, along with the ultimately adopted obverse design by Don Everhart, in a small mintage group of pattern inaugural medals that are quite rare on the market. The design wasn't used for the official medal, as the inaugural officials questioned the propriety of using a campaign slogan for the official inaugural medal.

Jakowicz would subsequently submit designs for consideration for the second George W. Bush inauguration, depicting George W. Bush and Richard Cheney, which while not used by the Inaugural committee, did result in about 250 medals being ordered by the White House for distribution to various supporters and dignitaries.

Intriguingly, Jakowicz also prepared designs along with some sample strikes for a proposed 2021 Inaugural medal for Donald Trump and Mike Pence. The latter medal, was prepared in consideration in the event of a Trump reelection. This in itself is not an unusual occurrence; due to the small window of time between the election and Inauguration Day, medalists would often start work on medal designs, even striking small quantities of the medal in the event the ticket won. That way, they would have a finished product for consideration by the Official Inaugural Committee. In the case of the 2020 election, this resulted in a most interesting artifact: A bronze Presidential Inaugural medal for President Trump and Vice President Pence in 2021. The medal depicts President Trump and Vice President Pence in a three-quarter pose, commemorating an inauguration that never occurred, as President Trump lost that election to Joseph Biden (electoral vote of 306-232, and popular vote of 81,283,501-74,223,975). The subsequent drama and turmoil, perhaps too fresh to rehash here, nonetheless makes this pattern even more interesting. According to the sculptor between 100 and 110 examples were struck in bronze measuring 76 mm, so it is a relatively scarce medal.

For the 2025, Jakowicz proposed and had struck a very attractive medal for the 60th Presidential inauguration, this time featuring President Trump and Vice President JD Vance, who won the electoral and popular vote over the Harris/Walz ticket (electoral vote 312-226 and popular vote 77,302,580 to 75,017.613). The medal was some similarities to the 2021 medal, with the swapping out of Pence for JD Vance. To many observers, this medal is more attractive than the official medal chosen for the 2025 inauguration. The medalist had a small number struck in bronze, measuring 76 mm for consideration by the Inaugural Committee. Although not chosen by the Committee, the medal was made available through the sculptor and had been sent to the Trump White House for consideration as a gift from the President to supporters and for special occasions.

The Presidential medals are but a small portion of Jakowicz's interesting and diverse body of work. When I initially interviewed him in March 2025, he had shown me photos of a number of medal proposals he was working on. One of those was for a general medal honoring Pope Francis. With Pope Francis's subsequent passing on April 21, 2025, the sculptor decided to have medals struck as a memorial issue honoring the late pope's life utilizing the plasters he had originally prepared for a different purpose. It is an attractive medal and can be ordered directly from the sculptor. Inquiries can be made to the sculptor at his email of jurekjakowicz@gmail.com or by U.S. Mail at 8322 SW 84th Place Road, Ocala, FL 34481.

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Medal Honoring the Battle of Cedynia

By Mark Benvenuto:

Someone wise once commented that the two things humans do very well are making other humans and killing other humans. There certainly are a lot of us now, in this day and age, and disappointingly, there have been a lot of battles throughout history, and thus killings. One battle that doesn't make it into United States history

books, but that is still remembered in Poland is the Battle of Cedynia. Fought on June 24th, 972, this fight was the first record battle of what gets called the Polish Duchy of Polan.

We'll not go into any further detail about the battle, but will point out that it certainly has not been forgotten by everyone, since a medal was made to commemorate it back in 1986. Believe it or not, this massive bronze piece is still available on eBay – at least if the timing is right.

The two sides are shown here, with Duke Mieszko on what looks to be the obverse, and the battle raging on the reverse. This is the type of medal that really commands a collector's attention, and leads us to some possibly forgotten history.

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Please note:

From our last PANS Eaglet, we'll remind folks that the Michigan Innovation Dollar coins are not being issued for circulation, but are being offered in rolls and bags on the Mint's website, www.USMINT.gov as well as in four-coin proof and reverse proof sets, with both sets being issued later in 2025. The Release Ceremony can be viewed on YouTube at https://youtu.be/HkqcFtdJLHI; and a $100 bag of Michigan Innovation Dollars are beautiful.

► Spot prices as of 4 June. 2025	
Gold:	$ 3,373.00/troy ounce
Silver:	$ 34.49/troy ounce
Copper:	$ 4.84/pound
Platinum:	$ 1,094.00/troy ounce
Palladium:	$ 982.00/troy ounce
$US-Złoty exchange: 3.74	

Have you been able to join us on the web? Try: www.pans-club.org. Or, on Facebook? If not, please go to Facebook, find PANS, and see what events are coming up for our society.

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Once again, come to the meetings and win

Your PANS meets once a month, and is generous in raffling off one Polish coin per meeting. Why not attend a meeting, and see if you can add something to your growing collection?

Send in your finds.

Have you found any Polish coins of note, perhaps squirreled away in some dealer's stock of foreign coins? If you have found a hidden treasure, or one hiding in plain sight, e-mail Mark a photo and a brief write-up of how you came upon it. The PANS members will most likely be interested in hearing about it.

Remember folks, please pay your dues for 2025! That's $20 for the year – $30 if you'd like the PANS Eaglet mailed quarterly.

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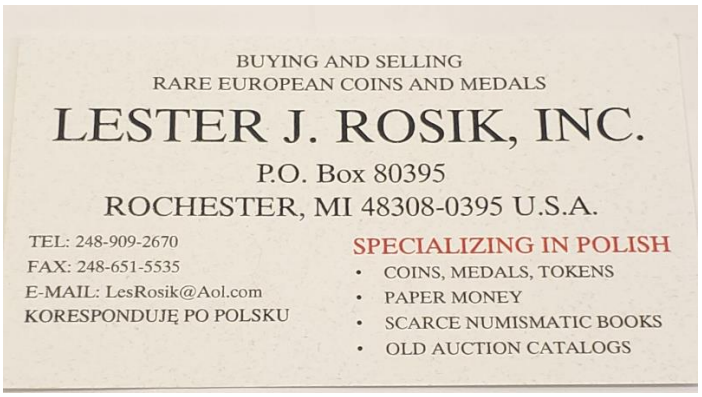

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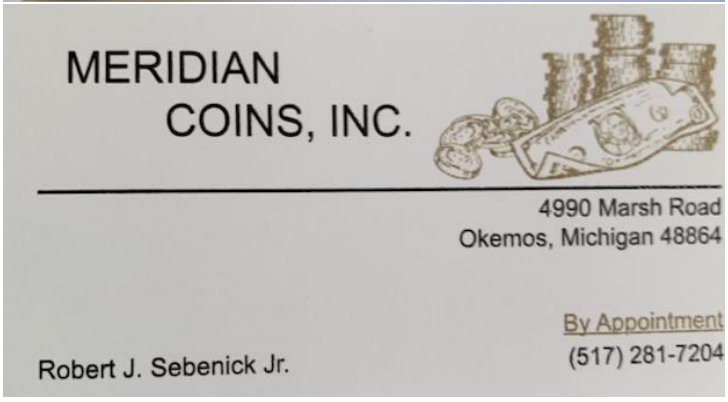

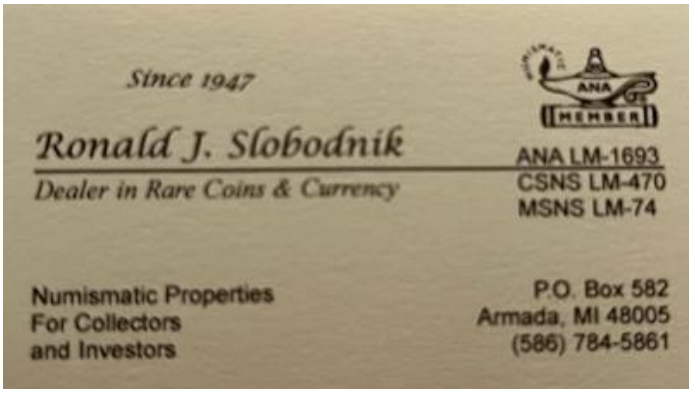

Polish-American Numismatic Society meets monthly at: American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Rd., Troy, MI 48083

➔ Your advert here, if you wish. Please contact Mr. Les Rosik for the details.

Polish American & Huron Valley Numismatic Societies
Present Our Annual Regional Coin Show

SUMMER LOCATION

COIN SHOW

Sunday
August 24, 2025
10 am – 4 pm

Madison Place Hall

876 Horace Brown Drive
South of 13 Mile Road
Madison Heights, Michigan

FREE Admission

BUY – SELL - TRADE
COINS – PAPER MONEY
MEDALS – TOKENS – BOOKS – SUPPLIES
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Polish-American Numismatic Society meets monthly at: American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Rd., Troy, MI 48083

Join Our Club

We meet on the first Saturday of the month at 12:00 PM at the American Polish Cultural Center located at 2975 East Maple Road (15 Mile Road) at Dequindre Road in Troy, Michigan. Visit the PANS Club website at www.pans-club.org for details. We currently have 10 meetings per year (August through May) with 2 months off during the summer. The Polish American Numismatic Society also plans a Christmas Oplatek Dinner during the Holiday Season. Meeting agendas include business matters and informative lectures from renowned guest speakers on topics including error and variety coins, significant coins in Polish history, Hamtramck scrip, coin photography. Open and lively member discussions about US and Polish numismatics are encouraged. Of course, the meeting would not be complete without coffee and delicious Polish pastries. The Polish American Numismatic Society hosts two very successful public coin show at the American Polish Cultural Center. Our primary show always takes place on the third Sunday of February. PANS also hosts a second show in August. Shows have been co-hosted with other clubs in the region. If you have any interest in numismatics, please attend a meeting and sign up as a member. PANS dues are only $20.00 per year or $30 per year if you would like the PANS Eaglet newsletter sent to your mail on a quarterly basis. PANS Club Membership is a great way to meet collectors with similar interests and knowledgeable dealers willing to share their experiences in a hobby that we all enjoy. To become a member-in-good-standing, plan to attend a minimum of 5 meetings per year and perform club-related duties at PANS Club sponsored Coin Shows.

Membership Application *I hereby make application for membership in the Polish American Numismatic Society, subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the Constitution and By-laws*.

SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

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CITY: _____ STATE/ZIP: _____

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Attend a meeting or mail to: PANS, PO BOX 80515, ROCHESTER, MI 48308